



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

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*Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home*

**FORMER STATE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD EMPLOYEE SENTENCED
TO 37 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR STEALING FTB CHECKS AS
PART OF IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that IDOWU ISIAKA OLUKOYA, 34, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge David F. Levi to 37 months imprisonment and ordered to pay more than \$250,000 in restitution. OLUKOYA pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud, money laundering, and access device fraud (commonly known as identity theft) before Judge Levi on October 7, 2004.

This case is the product of an extensive, joint investigation by the United States Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Investigations Bureau of the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), with the assistance of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who prosecuted the case, as part of a plea agreement, OLUKOYA admitted that in 2002 he and co-conspirators defrauded banks in California and abroad by depositing stolen checks into fraudulent bank accounts and using bank debit cards to purchase U.S. postal money orders before the fraud was detected. OLUKOYA, who then worked in the Receiving section of an FTB facility in Sacramento, stole large quarterly tax payments checks, the theft of which would not normally be discovered until the filing of the taxpayer's tax return. OLUKOYA and his co-conspirators used

multiple stolen identities to rent private mail boxes, open fraudulent bank accounts, and obtain bank debit cards from local bank branches. Some of the checks stolen from FTB were "washed," a process by which the original payee's name was removed and a new payee inserted.

OLUKOYA and his co-conspirators deposited FTB checks made payable to the stolen identities into local bank accounts and used debit cards to purchase over 100 money orders at U.S. Post Offices in the Sacramento and Los Angeles areas. The money orders ranged in value between \$150 and \$700 and were made payable to individuals in California and New York. In other instances, "washed" checks were deposited into foreign bank accounts. Nine stolen FTB checks were deposited into fraudulent bank accounts in Poland in the summer of 2002. One stolen FTB check was deposited into a bank account in Japan.

According to AUSA Skipper, the restitution order of \$254,046 will compensate American and Polish banks who incurred losses as a result of the bank fraud scheme. No tax payers incurred any losses as a result of OLUKOYA's criminal activities.

Following his release from imprisonment, OLUKOYA will be placed on supervised release for a period of 36 months unless he is deported to Nigeria.

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